

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CARACA 10809 051656Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----098267 051701Z /15

Z 051637Z NOV 77 ZFF-6
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 9888
NAVSTA ROOSEVELT ROADS FLASH
INFO THE WHITE HOUSE FLASH
CIA WASHDC FLASH
DOD WASHDC FLASH
JCS WASHDC FLASH
COMNAVFOR CARIBBEAN FLASH
CINCLANT NORVA FLASH
CNO WASH DC FLASH

S E C R E T CARACAS 10809

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES EXCLUSIVE FOR COMMANDERS ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: SREF, ASEC, UR, VE (YURCHENKO, YURIY FEDOROVICH)
SUBJECT: SOVIET DIPLOMAT WALK-IN

REF: CARACAS 10806

1. I SAW FOREIGN MINISTER AT 11 AM TODAY (NOV 5). HE DESCRIBED TO ME HIS CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR WHICH HE HAD JUST HAD. IT WAS, HE SAID, A "DIFFICULT" CONVERSATION. HE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HIS COMMERCIAL ATTACHE HAD GONE TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, AND ASKED FOR ASYLUM, THAT WE HAD INFORMED THE GOV LAST NIGHT, AND THAT THE GOV HAD AUTHORIZED THE ATTACHE'S DEPARTURE FROM THE COUNTRY. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR PROTESTED AT THAT, AND THE MINISTER DEFENDED THE DECISION. AT THAT POINT, THE MINISTER TOLD ME, HE DECIDED NOT TO TELL THE AMBASSADOR

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THAT THE WALK-IN HAD IN FACT ALREADY LEFT; HE SAID TO ME HE WOULD DO THAT LATER.

2. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR THEN ASKED THAT THE GOV FREEZE THE SITUATION FOR EIGHT DAYS. THE MINISTER SAID HE TOLD HIM THAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE, THAT THE AUTHORIZATION FOR HIM TO LEAVE HAD ALREADY BEEN GIVEN. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED THAT HE BE ALLOWED

TO TALK TO THE OFFICER, AND ABOVE ALL THAT THERE BE NO PUBLICITY ON THIS. HE WAS ESPECIALLY WORRIED THAT THE US WOULD MAKE A BIG PROPAGANDA PLAY ON THIS. AS TO THIS LAST POINT, THE MINISTER ASKED ME EARNESTLY TO REQUEST THAT MY GOVERNMENT NOT ISSUE ANY STATEMENT OR MAKE A PROPAGANDA ISSUE OF THIS. I COMMITTED MYSELF AND SAID THAT WE WOULD NOT MAKE ANY ANNOUNCEMENT OR STATEMENT.

3. AS TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST TO TALK TO THE WALK IN I REMINDED THE MINISTER THAT AS I HAD TOLD HIM LAST NIGHT THE MAN FLATLY STATED HE WOULD NOT TALK TO ANY SOVIET AND HAD IN FACT REFUSED TO COMMUNICATE EVEN WITH HIS WIFE. THE MINISTER THEN TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD CALL THE AMBASSADOR BACK (HE HAS PROBABLY DONE SO BY NOW) AND TELL HIM THAT THE MAN REFUSED TO TALK TO ANY SOVIETS, THAT THE GOV AUTHORIZATION FOR HIM TO LEAVE STANDS AND HE WILL BE LEAVING IN THE "NEXT FEW HOURS". (THE MINISTER ASKED THAT WE NOT REVEAL THE HOUR OF DEPARTURE BECAUSE THAT WOULD PLACE HIM IN AN EMBARRASSING POSITION) HE WILL ALSO TELL THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR THAT WE WILL NOT MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT OR STATEMENT.

4. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR SPECULATED TO HIM, THE MINISTER SAID, AS TO WHETHER THIS WAS AN AMERICAN PROVOCATION. THE MINISTER SAID HE TOLD HIM IT WAS NOT. I ASSURED THE MINISTER THAT IT INDEED WAS NOT.

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5. ACTION REQUESTED:

A) PLEASE INSURE THAT THERE IS NO ANNOUNCEMENT OR STATEMENT, AND IF POSSIBLE NO LEAK, FOR THE TIME BEING.

B) IN CONVERSATIONS WITH SOVIETS (I ASSUME THEY WILL PROTEST IN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW) THAT WE DO NOT RPT NOT REVEAL THE HOUR OF DEPARTURE TO AVOID EMBARRASSING THE GOV, SINCE THE FOREIGN MINISTER WEAVED A TANGLED WEB WHEN HE DECIDED NOT TO TELL THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE MAN HAD ALREADY GONE.
VAKY

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